

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 13, 2009

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS (\$393,146) AND EXTEND
THROUGH FY10 DLNR/RCUH CONTRACT NO. 51059 FOR A DIVISION OF AQUATIC
RESOURCES STREAM/ESTUARINE STUDIES PROJECT

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend/extend an existing project Agreement between the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Amendment No. 7 will add funding in the amount of \$393,146 and allow continuation of the project from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. This Amendment is fully federally funded; no State General Funds are being used. Funds are provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Agreement enables the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to secure assistance from RCUH in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for the DAR to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

Stream/Estuarine Fisheries Studies (Contract No. 51059)

This project involves research on native stream and estuarine species to demonstrate ridge to reef connectivity and provides data and support for DAR staff in supplying needed information for the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) in its development of minimum instream flow standards, with special emphasis on east Maui. The data thus gathered will provide an accessible source of information by which to evaluate relative biological integrity of various streams, thereby serving to rationalize management actions by CWRM. Of particular importance are CWRM's decisions affecting water flows, including proposed water withdrawals, damming, channelization, or other actions that could modify existing instream habitat. Given the mandates of the State Water Code, the authority assigned to CWRM, and its own statutory requirements for the protection and management of aquatic biota, this project will increase our knowledge base, strengthen the foundation for decision making, and ultimately provide the means for assuring the future survival of our unique native biota.

Project activities will focus on 1) continuation of on-going stream surveys in areas proposed for potential stream flow restoration, with special emphasis on streams or stream reaches not yet surveyed; 2) data collection and analysis; 3) incorporation of data into the DAR Aquatic Survey Geo-database with subsequent geospatial analysis using GIS software; 4) investigation, assessment and monitoring of the effects of water restoration on aquatic biota and habitats; 5) evaluation of the relationships between stream and estuarine ecosystems and nearshore

fisheries; and 6) determination of the role estuaries play as nursery habitat for marine fish species. In the course of the project, DAR will continue to encourage community partnerships for stream monitoring.

Project appropriation is \$393,146 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This includes \$329,146 from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program and \$64,000 from the State Wildlife Grant Program.

Approval to amend/extend the Agreement is being requested concurrently from the Governor, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. Also, the amendment to the Project Agreements has been submitted to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend Contract 51059 with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for FY10."

Respectfully submitted,



DAN POLHEMUS, Administrator
Division of Aquatic Resources

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson